

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
MARCH 18, 2009**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor William J. Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

Mayor William J. Schmitt	Present
Council members:	
John Schroeder	Present
David Prechtel	Absent
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Six of the seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. February 18, 2009 regular Common Council meeting
2. February 18, 2009 6:45 p.m. public hearing concerning Ordinance No. 2008-34 that revises the electric rates and charges
3. February 24, 2009 informational meeting with the fire department to discuss IRS' comments about the proposed Volunteer Firefighters' Retirement Plan

A **motion** was made by Council member Randy Buchta and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Rezoning proposal/Ordinance No. 2009-10. Mayor Schmitt sought consideration of the proposal from Steve Stallings and Fifth Third Bank to rezone property located at 3682 and 3694 Newton Street from R-2 residential to B-1 business.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter and seconded by Councilmember Thomas Schmidt to accept the proposal to rezone the property and adopt the rezoning ordinance for such property. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Schmitt then stated that the ordinance would be referenced Ordinance No. 2009-10.

Utility Service Board. General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2009. Copies of the minutes are supplied to each council member.

Carbon emissions. General Manager of Utilities of Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger said the City received a packet of information from IMPA about the issues that are being proposed about regulating and taxing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. IMPA recommends adopting a resolution to make ones congressman aware that the City is against the carbon taxes. Hauersperger also said if Congress passes these regulations and carbon tax, it could raise our electric rates in the next few years by 20%-40%.

Since the deadline was approaching, there was not enough time to bring a resolution before the Council that states the City's opposition to the carbon tax. Mayor Schmitt said our Congressional representatives like to have something in writing and signed by the community officials that says whether we are for or against something. There was discussion about having a letter prepared, reviewed, and signed by the elected officials.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council member Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter and seconded by Council member Raymond Howard to have a letter drafted to our representatives opposing the carbon cap and trade legislation. Motion carried 6-0.

Camera system software funding. Mayor Schmitt said Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle asked to bring some information before the Council. Eckerle said \$15,000.00 was placed in the 2008 budget for software for the camera system. Since they are still searching for the proper software that needs to work with the auto cad and before they spend more research time, Eckerle asked the Council if at budget time would they approve a \$20,000.00 additional appropriation for 2009 for the software. Eckerle then gave a brief description of the process and explained what the software can achieve.

Mayor Schmitt stated that in 2010 the budget may be tighter than it is now. Council member John Schroeder said the software is worthwhile pursuing.

Road salt. Council member Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter asked Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle how much road salt is left and Eckerle replied about 750-800 tons. Eckerle also said after attending Road School, it appears the City may be able to tag onto the State salt bid.

JCAC. Jasper Community Arts Commission member Robin Norris attended the meeting on behalf of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randy Buchta to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 22nd day of April, 2009.

Mayor William J. Schmitt
Presiding Officer

Attest:

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer

Margaret A. Kress, Recording Secretary